



NRCS Locally Led Conservation Delivery in Vermont



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRCDS) in Vermont are expanding their work with Vermont communities in delivering technical and financial assistance through USDA Farm Bill programs. This process is an innovative approach to the Locally Led Conservation Delivery (LLCD) model.

The LLCD model focuses on leveraging community feedback and partnerships and USDA funding to strategically invest federal dollars in local priority resource concerns to restore, conserve, and protect Vermont's natural resources and working landscapes.

NRCDS in Vermont have gathered feedback from Local Working Groups and crafted Conservation Action Plans and Locally Led Conservation Plans (LLCPs) outlining local resource concerns and goals, proposed solutions and actions, necessary funds and technical assistance, monitoring and evaluating methods, and an implementation timeline.

The following is a brief, summarized list of NRCDS LLCPs for the state of Vermont.

*Funding awarded is subject to fiscal year 2026 funding allocation. **Fiscal year 2026 conservation programs application deadline: August 22, 2025

Natural Resources Conservation District	Locally Led Conservation Plan	Conservation Practices Offered
Bennington County Conservation District (BCCD) – \$250,000*	BCCD aims to implement agroforestry and complementary conservation practices to restore the county's agricultural resilience.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Alley Cropping, Forest Farming, Hedgerow, Windbreak/Shelter Establishment, and Riparian Forest Buffer.
Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District (CCNRCD) – \$200,000*	CCNRCD proposes to improve the agricultural resilience and economic sustainability of small family farms in the county by offering financial assistance for agronomic practices that will improve soil health, and crop productivity.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: High Tunnel System, Low Tunnel System, Conservation Crop Rotation, Irrigation Water Management, Soil Carbon Amendment, and Low Tunnel Systems.
Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRD) – \$1,500,000*	FCNRD proposes to create a funding stream that enables producers to implement infrastructure improvements that reduce runoff, support manure management, and ensure long-term farm viability through conservation practices.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, Waste Storage Facility, Composting Facility, Wastewater Treatment, Animal Mortality Facility, and Waste Transfer.
Grand Isle Natural Resources Conservation District (GINRCD) – \$300,000*	GINRCD seeks to establish a funding stream to advance soil health and water quality by supporting local landowners in adopting sustainable conservation practices.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: High Tunnel System, Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover Crop, Pasture and Hay Management, and Nutrient Management.
Lamoille County Conservation District (LCCD) – \$200,000*	LCCD seeks to support forest landowners in Lamoille County through targeted funding and technical assistance to enhance forest health, biodiversity, and economic resilience.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Forest Management Plan, Brush Management, Herbaceous Weed Management and Upland Wildlife Management.



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Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD) – \$200,000*	OCNRCD seeks to address the rapidly growing threat of invasive plant species across the county. They hope to protect and restore native biodiversity, enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats, reduce erosion, and improve water quality.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Brush Management, Herbaceous Weed Treatment, and Tree/Shrub Establishment.
Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD) – \$200,000*	OCNRCD seeks to improve water quality and manage high flows in Orleans County by restoring wetlands, reducing erosion, and implementing conservation practices.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Water Sediment Control Basin, Vegetative Barrier, Grade Stabilization Structure, and Riparian Forest Buffer.
Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (OCNRCD) – \$200,000*	OCNRCD seeks to support small family farms in the county by enhancing their sustainability and viability through conservation practices.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Pasture and Hay Planting, Annual Forages for Grazing Systems, Controlled Traffic Farming, and Nutrient Man-
Rutland County Natural Resources Conservation District (RNRCD) and Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) – \$500,000*	RNRCD and PMNRCD seek to improve soil health and plant productivity, control invasive species, reduce erosion and limit runoff impacts to surface waters through NRCS-approved conservation practices.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Pasture and Hay Planting, Prescribed Grazing, Watering Facility, Pollinator Habitat Design, and Critical Area Planting.
White River Natural Resources Conservation District (WRNRCD) – \$75,000*	WRNRCD seeks to expand access to conservation planning in Vermont through the use of technical assistance, workforce development and assessment-based practices.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Grazing Management Plan, Soil Health Testing, Forest Management Plan, and Pollinator Habitat Design.
Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District (WCNRCD) – \$25,000*	WCNRCD seeks to increase the number of forest management plans in the county so that threats to forest health such as pests, changing weather patterns, and increased fire risk can be reduced.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Forest Management Plan, Forest Management Practice Design, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Design, and Pollinator Habitat Design.
Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District (WCNRCD) – \$350,000*	WCNRCD seeks to improve forest health by combating invasive species, improving wildlife habitat and building climate resilience in the county.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Brush Management, Herbaceous Weed Treatment, Riparian Forest Buffer, and Aquatic Organism Passage.
Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District (WCNRCD) – \$200,000*	WCNRCD seeks to address the growing challenges small farmers in the county encounter such as poor soil quality, plant degradation, erosion, and pest pressure.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: High Tunnel System, Low Tunnel System, Raised Beds, Cover Crop, and Prescribed Grazing.
Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (Winooski NRCD) – \$200,000*	Winooski NRCD seeks to establish riparian buffer zones to naturally filter runoff, reduce erosion and create wildlife habitat.	Conservation practices offered in the proposal include: Riparian Forest Buffer, Riparian Herbaceous Cover, and Tree/Shrub Establishment, and Brush Management.

NRCS Mission: We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

NRCS Vision: A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

